



In our second edition, on Saturday afternoon, and also in the *Herald* of yesterday, we gave much news of an interesting and highly important character, from England, also from the seat of war. Having since received papers of intermediate dates, and thus completed our files to the 21st of March inclusive, we resume our extracts.

The day on which the *Golden Era* left the Mersey, it may be remembered, was that set apart by Royal proclamation as a season of fasting, humiliation, and prayer, on account of the war.

On this subject, which appears to have elicited a considerable diversity of opinion amongst the conductors of the Press, both metropolitan and provincial, the *London Examiner* of 17th March remarks:

We certainly are a people much given to the observance of precedents. We lose an army, and precedent consigns us: it always happens in the first campaign.

Why do we not have a precedent for such an inquiry? We nominate upright men to high offices, and ample precedent justifies the proceeding.

And now, according to precedent, we are to pray and fast on Wednesday next. We are informed, indeed, that this 21st of March is not to be a fast-day. We have abandoned that Popish superstition—by no means to be a gracious dispensation. Our statesmen who have handled us who now bid us all humble ourselves to propitiate the consequences of their bungling—they certainly will not do so.

The 21st of March will be to them as other days, save only that it will be a holiday. No office, no committee, no House of Commons: only attendance at church in the morning to hear Mr. Melville, and that

Popish superstition may not be countenanced in high places, dinner as usual in the evening. But these sheep—what have they done? Their part was to pay taxes, and they have paid them; was to send forth soldiers, and they have sent them. Their work, one would say, has not been done ill or grudgingly. A

Affording a sumptuous long fast has combined with a full trade to distract the army, and so multiply hardship; and what religion is it, when all this has been so patiently and bravely borne, steps in and says, "Humble yourselves, give up another day's work, another day's shop-

keeping, another day's wages, another day's profits; for this will be pleasing in the sight of Heaven, this will prove that the nation is lowly and penitent, this will perhaps avert some misfortune of Sebastopol?" What nation? In this, what presses so hardly on the poor, it makes difficult the conscience of the rich. A day of humiliation! Such as we are already sorely humbled. What summons will it be to the depths of shame as the letters from the Crimea? The lines at Sebastopol, the harbour of Balaklava, the graves of Scutari, a military system tried and found wanting, a military reputation jeopardised in the sight of Europe, a national prestige departing from us—if the thought of these things do not humble us, would a whole month of fast days avail to do it? A year ago we fasted and prayed by precedent; we were then chaste, we were ascetics; but we came away, and we went on as usual writing, and reading, and talking of our glorious and our unequalled fleets, and the magnificent spectacle which we presented to the nations. Alas! if the Privy Council Day of Humiliation could not keep us from boasting then, who will say that it is wanted to make us humble now? A Day of Prayer—it is a solemn phrase, not to be spoken of irreverently; but of all things reverence is most opposed to cant. We have starved an army—therefore let us fast; we have found our system worthless—therefore let us humble ourselves; we have taken all measures to insure disaster, and disaster await us—therefore let us fast—therefore let us pray! But it is not pious to be superstitious. *Labores et orare.* The gods help those who help themselves; never did the gods lend a pitying ear to those who in the hour of peril, when the ship was drifting towards wrecks, left the ropes and took themselves to easy prayers. Our Puritan ancestors fought with a sword in one hand and Bible in the other; but the Bible was not in the *Times*. The gods did not desire the sailors of a disabled ship to fast, but to eat; nor was that till those resources of precaution had been taken which eventually saved the vessel that he deemed it seemly or pious to call upon the ship's company to pray.

And Dickens, in the *Household Words*, handles the same matter very unceremoniously; and, to our thinking, with rather more of levity than befits either the solemnity of so grave and momentous a question, or the dignity of the French Estates. Says he:—

If the directors of any great joint-stock commercial undertaking, say a railway company, were to get themselves made directors principally in virtue of some blind, superstitious, dogmatical, and obstinate name of Bolter to be a mathematician, and every man of the name of Polter to possess a minute acquaintance with the construction of locomotive steam-engines; and if those ignorant directors so managed the affairs of the body corporate as that the trains never started at the right times, began at the right beginnings, or got to their right ends, but always went into the hands of self-styled engineers themselves into violent collision with one another; and if by such means these incapable directors destroyed the lives of lives, wasted millions of money, and hopelessly bewildered and conglomeration themselves, and everyone else; what would the shareholding body say if those brazen-faced directors called them together in the midst of the wreck and ruin they had made, and with an audacious pietism addressed them thus:—"Le, ye miserable sinners, the hand of Providence is heavy on you: Attire yourselves in sackcloth, throw ashes on your heads, and let your hair be condescended to make discourses to you on the sweepings of hell." Or if Mr. Matthew Marshall, of the Bank of England, were to be succeeded by Bolter as the whole Bank of England were to be cleared for Bolter; and the engraving of bank notes were to be given as a snug thing to Polter; and if Bolter, Jolter, and Polter, with a short pull and a weak pull, and a pull no two of them together, should tear the Money-Market to pieces, and rend the whole mercantile system and credit of the country to shreds; what kind of reception would Bolter, Jolter, and Polter, and Baring, Brothers, Rothschilds, and Lombard-savers, in general, if those inapplicable should say out, "Providence has brought you all to the Gaetts." Listen, wicked ones, and you will give an improving lecture on the death of the Old Lady in Threadneedle-street?" Or, if the servants in a rich man's household were to distribute their duty exactly as the fancy took them: if the housemaid were to undertake the kennel of hounds and the dairy maid were to mount the coachbox, and the cook were to pounce upon the secretary, and the groom were to dress the dinner, and the game-keeper were to make the beds, while the gardener who had the laundry to wash, and the piazza stable-keeper took the baby out for a walk; would the rich man, soon very poor, be much improved in his mind when the whole incompetent establishment, surrounding him, exclaimed, "You have brought yourself to a pretty pass, Sir! You had better see what fasting and humiliation will do to get you out of this! We will trouble you to pay us, keep us

Further, the *Times* of the 20th intimates that "there is a rumour that the Judges intend sitting on the fast-day." It adds, however, "But we venture to state, that it is not to be expected that the administrators of the law will be first to disregard or disobey the proclamation of the sovereign, and that, even should the business in London not be likely to be disposed of by Tuesday night, the commission-day at Bodmin will be postponed."

From Scutari, the latest accounts of the state of the sick and wounded are to the 1st of March. The *Times* our correspondent, writing under that date, observes:—

"Having had time as yet to take only a very cursory view of the mass of human suffering which lies accumulated on the Asiatic side of the Bosphorus, I

must shun from entering at once into any detailed account of the state of the hospitals, and content myself with indicating the nature of the medical services, still, after so many months of effort, but too plainly declare themselves. I am as yet possessed rather of a few isolated facts than of any complete and consecutive view. People in England may judge, however, whether such facts taken alone imply the advantage of reporting whatever presents itself to observation, and of presenting subsidiary means available upon the instant, or any variety of purposes. To speak first of general impressions, it is not the evil which makes medical provision, or the want of it, which makes the defect of method, delay of action, have the want of humanity, there the want of will to exercise it unconditionally, and, above all, need of more thoroughly effective hands, are the more prominent causes of mischief. The great majority of the medical officers deserve all honour and praise, for devotion to their duties, and, having no neglects to conceal, remediable by the want of opportunity for transport. The medical officers there do not speak very favourably of the quality of some of their most necessary stores, e.g., the port wine—and the difficulty of clearing out had stock—implying good is too great to leave much probability of improvement. Wherever such a defect exists it is to be remedied in time, so much so that it is hardly to be known as a grievance. If the complaint is made the article is dragged before a Board, and condemned with all manner of judicial solemnity, and the man who is ought to be responsible for its character. This instance, and others not dissimilar, of stores analogous in their kind to actual medicine, yet unfit for their object, create some natural curiosities as to the method by which and the cost at which they are laid in.

At all the hospitals, without exception, the regular solid diet of meat, bread, and soup appears respectably good; that the meat is not first-rate is very much the accident of locality; but there is no where any provision of potatoes, though other fresh vegetables are supplied. A few cargoes of good potatoe would be highly acceptable to the men, and are as useful to them as to the medical officers. This is a very natural want, and the cost of sending it to the gunners would be diminished very considerably. Their summer would be shortened, their camp and the men in the town would be subject to great loss of life; above all, the fire of the ship, which is a most serious ingredient in the calculation of those questions which decide the plans of the generals, would be in all probability most materially reduced. When the French fire was silenced on the 17th October, and while our batteries were engaged with Sebastopol, an assault might indeed have been made with some greater probability of getting into the place than presents itself to us at present. The Redan, the Round Tower Works, and the Garden Battery, were then nearly silenced—they did not at sunset fire a dozen, nay, not more than half a dozen guns among them. The distinguished engineer to whom the expression is attributed might have said, indeed, "Where on earth were you when the Redan, and the Round Tower Works, and the Garden Battery, were then nearly silenced—they did not at sunset fire a dozen, nay, not more than half a dozen guns among them. The distinguished engineer to whom the expression is attributed might have said, indeed, "Where on earth were you when the Redan, the Round Tower Works, and the Garden Battery, were then nearly silenced—they did not at sunset fire a dozen, nay, not more than half a dozen guns among them. 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## EXPIRATION OF LEASE—RETIRING FROM THE RETAIL TRADE.

To the LADIES of SYDNEY and the RESPECTIVE COUNTIES of NEWCASTLE, MURKIN, and WINDSOR.

THOMAS GARTON and CO. beg most respectfully to announce that the Lease of their premises, situated at the latter Apartment, expires, it is their intention to dispose of their extensive and varied STOCK of BRITISH and FOREIGN GOODS, amounting to upwards of EIGHTEEN THOUSAND POUNDS, before that period.

It is not only necessary, but it is also their intention, to give to the public the benefit of their extensive and varied STOCK of RICH GOODS that it has ever been their privilege to offer.

To advise to the class of goods of which their stock is composed, Their Goods consist of the following articles:—suffice it to say, that during the last SIX WEEKS upwards of 1000 cases were imported by the receipt of LARGE SHIPMENTS of goods from PARIS, LONDON, and NEW YORK, which will, of course, be included in the catalogue of merchandise. It is to be noted, however, in this connection, that the STOCK is not only representative of the most REPUTABLE MILK, SHIRTS, and MANTLES, but also of GROCERIES, and other HOUSEHOLD PURPOSES, which departments may be thus described.

THE FOREIGN GOODS DEPARTMENT consists of Rich Lyons gold and silver articles.

" " glass, striped and check silks

" " black silks, 12, 24, and 36 inch

" " black and white silks

" " gold embossed shawls

" " velvet, satin, and silk ditto

" " silk mantles in cloths, velvets, and silk

" " black and white dresses

" " black and white squares and scarves

" " black and white ribbons

" " black and white lace

" " black and white ribbons



